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Statement on East Timor

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Honorable Chairman and Delegates,

Let me start this address by expressing my deep gratitude to the Committee for giving me this opportunity. I am extremely delighted with being able to lay my views before you on behalf of the Japanese Dietmen's Forum on East Timor.

Our country, Japan, has committed an enormous crime by causing undescribable sacrifice and distress to many countries of the world by recklessly rushing headlong into the Second World War.

To our regret, East Timor, a country more than 5000 kilometers away from Tokyo, is one of those countries oppressed by Japan. I heard that during the three and a half years of Japanese military occupation innumerable people either lost their lives or suffered from the violation of their human rights. I hope you remember that at last year's special Committee, a Japanese veteran made a tearful plea for East Timorese independence, confessing what the Japanese did there during the occupation. His strong feeling of responsibility and regret for not having been able to impede this brutality of the Japanese military compelled him to assist the committee.

When I was young I myself had the same experience of following the army for six years, even though the place assigned to me was different. At that time, I was a fervent soldier most faithfully committed to the cause of national duty, without realizing what sort of war it was nor any feeling of contradiction.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. A war of invasion is formidable. Those who wage war are inclined not to recognize their faults in order to maintain their positions. They begin information control and oppression of their dissidents. They justify their action of depriving the precious lives of people. They encourage brutality against the enemy, and change the characters of persons.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. It is more than regrettable that there still exist on the Earth countries invading other countries even at this time as history approaches the close of the 20th century. When, after the Second World War, we hoped for world peace and established the United Nations, there was a consensus of ideas among us from various races, religions, cultures and ideologies. It was nothing other than the guarantee of the right of self-determination and other fundamental human rights in all areas. This consensus of ideas was embodied in the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights. If in the world there are still ~~any~~ any areas where these two principles have yet to be guaranteed, our century, the 20th century, cannot draw its curtain. In other words, until the right of self-determination is fully exercised and the fundamental human rights are guaranteed to all the people in East Timor, our 20th century will not come to an end. East Timor is still in the position of unjustifiable occupation by Indonesia since the invasion of Dec. 1975.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. I am one of those who made a humble effort in establishing the Japan-Seychelles Association after visiting the Republic of Seychelles in Africa. The republic of Seychelles is a small island country with a population of 65,000. Since it is situated in a strategically very important area, it has continuously confronted the United States and the Soviets, who are eager to draw it over to their sides, respectively. The Seychelles, in this situation, by adopting a positive neutrality policy of free association and

maintaining its nuclear free policy, is making desperate efforts to fulfill not only political independence but also economical independence from any country.

In April 1981, when the above-mentioned Japan-Seychelles Association was founded, the then Minister of Planning and Development in Seychelles, came to Japan and gave the following speech. "We cannot maintain the independence of our country by armed forces. Fortunately, our country is called *the last paradise left on Earth*. Many people from various countries visit our country to take some rest. As long as we keep our country as a safe and beautiful resort, preserving our own culture and high morale of our people, no one would violate our country. And if someone imprudent should try to do it, other people would prevent him from doing so." Therefore our country aims above all at the guarantee of an environment which enables every member of the nation to have an independent house, however small it may be, with a front garden where they can grow vegetables and fruits, and in which they can enjoy a happy family life. We also seek for the way the dignity of our citizens can develop in the international community and cooperate with the citizens of other nations.

The Seychelles became independent from England in 1976. The same year that the Seychelles began to grow into a new nation, the "Peoples Assembly" consisting of a handful of people, was fabricated under the Indonesian occupation in East Timor. It was there that a petition for annexation was passed unanimously and Indonesia decided to annex East Timor. After that in order to justify this annexation, Indonesia repeated again and again the "clean sweep operations" and one-fourth, or maybe one-third of the whole population perished.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. What a contrast! My heart never ceases aching. Nevertheless I felt strongly encouraged when I was informed that in the United Nations Seychelles has always been supportive of East Timor's self-determination in a very positive way. I don't think there is much difference between the opinions of those seeking independence in East Timor and of those who have achieved it in the Seychelles. I honestly plead for the prompt withdrawal of the Indonesian troops from East Timor, so that the day may come when the East Timorese can start to discuss the building up of their own nation. By this I mean discussion by and for the East Timorese.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. Here I have a report to put before you as a representative of the 74 members of the Japanese Dietmen's Forum on East Timor. On June 28 of this year, Lord Eric Evebury from the United Kingdom, Mr. Tony Lamb from Australia, and my colleague, Mr. Satsuki Eda called to launch *Parliamentarians for East Timor* in Lisbon. We held a meeting in the Diet on August 9 and made a formal decision to accept an invitation we received in Lisbon to join this new international organization, "Parliamentarians for East Timor". We intend to increase the number of those cooperating with the East Timor cause, by taking full advantage of this new international framework. Japan is the largest aid donor. Indonesia is the largest recipient of the aid of Japan. Between Japan and Indonesia the economic relation is so heavy. But our government has never told her friend Indonesia what she should stop the invasion of East Timor. So we pledge to do our best to encourage the Japanese Government to be strong and sincere enough to demand its close friend, Indonesia, a will to make peace.

Our premier, Noboru Takeshita, stated in the last United Nation's Special Session on Disarmament that Japan has an intention and wish to positively contribute to world peace. If

he continues his approval of the invasion of East Timor by Indonesia, to which our government gives the biggest economical aid, the above-mentioned statement of Premier Takeshita will prove to be a lie. If Japan really wants to make a contribution toward world peace, it has to give top priority to the East Timorese cause. It is our duty to let Premier Takeshita recognize this.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. Nowadays the world is undergoing a remarkable change. Wars are already something out of date. Brave withdrawal is more appreciated by the world as honorable conduct than victory in war. The high esteem of the world for the Indonesian effort for peace in Kampuchea is indicative of this truth. We deeply respect the effort made by Indonesia. But on the other hand, why has Indonesia been crushing the voice for self-determination in East Timor? And besides that, why has Indonesia desperately been engaged in the extermination of the people of East Timor? We are very sorry to see such a strong contradiction.

Honorable Chairman and Delegates. A large number of precious lives have been sacrificed already in East Timor. We can hardly lose any more lives. What our Forum has already requested several times of the Secretary General of the United Nations is that a negotiation of peace should be held including the very persons concerned with this cause, the East Timorese. We ask the Committee to join us in our appeal to the Secretary General.

Thank you for listening so attentively.